TURTLE BACK ZOO
560 Northfield Ave
West Orange, NJ 07052
731 - 5800

1st ANNUAL
VALENTINE'S DAY

POETRY CONTEST

FEBRUARY 12, 1983

SPONSORED AND JUDGED BY URBAN VOICES

PROGRAM
Valentines Day Poetry Contest

Introduction & Welcome.....Barbara J. Miller, Project Coordinator
Turtle Back Zoo.

.....Liz DelTufo, Director of Cultural Affairs

Urban Voices.....Sam Burgess

Second Grade Award Winners

Reading of Second Grade Poem of Recognition

Third Grade Award Winners

Reading of Third Grade Poem of Recognition

Fourth Grade Award Winners

Reading of Fourth Grade Poem of Recognition

Fifth Grade Award Winners

Reading of Fifth Grade Poem of Recognition

Special Education Award Winners

Reading of Special Education Poem

Poetry of Urban Voisces-Sam Burgess reading

Presentation of 1983 FEELINGS AWARD

Cover design by Mr. Joseph Mincey

Urban Voices-Background

Urban Voices was created in July, 1980, through the cooperative efforts of Anne Gadson Brown, Joanne Butler and Marian Crewe.

Urban Voices is a group of poets and artists bound together spiritually for the purpose of sharing their thoughts, ideas and experiences.

The goal of Urban Voices is to reach out to individuals in the elementary and secondary schools, the colleges, the prisons, and the senior and community centers. Our goal will be achieved by:

Conducting Poetry and Art Workshops and Seminars

Presenting "Up-and-Coming" Poets and Artists
Publishing an Anthology
Publishing an Annual Anthology

Developing a Quarterly Journal of Poetry

POEMS OF RECOGNITION

My Favorite Animal

I love Deers
Deers love me
Deers are beautiful
Can't you see.
Deers eat leaves off trees
Deers are brown, brown,
like me.
I love Deers.
Deers love me
Deers are gentle, kind and free
Deers are gentle just like me.

Tekesia Black
Grade 2
George Washington Carver
Newark

Zebras

There was a zebra whose name was Mac.
He had white stripes bewteen the black.
Or maybe black between the white.
Did you ever see such a funny sight?
If his stripes were red and yellow
he would be a funny fellow.
If his stripes were blue and green
he would be awfully mean.
Because the zebra has such fame
perhaps he should just stay the same.

Monica DeMaio
Grade 3
Grandview School
North Caldwell

POEMS OF RECOGNITION

The Lizard

The lizard has a snaky head,
And a snaky tail beside.
He has a little lightning tongue
To snap at flies outside.

I think he was a dragon once
With wings and wicked claws
And fiery eyes, scales and teeth,
To make the bravest run.

I think a hero sought him out,
When he was in dragon skin.
He helped to fight an awful curse,
And changed to a lizard again.

Maritza Feliciano
Grade 4
Louise A. Spencer School
Newark

The Horse

What's my favorite animal?
Of cousse! of course!
The big - the heavy - the sturdy
The horse.

They run in the blue sky.
The sun and the moon.
They run from evening
To morning to noon.
They hip and they hop.
To a beautiful tune.

The black and white and brown
And gray.
I talk and I think about them everday.
They're the most beautiful animal.
A person could see.
The horse lover - that's me.

Ayanna Taylor
Holy Name School
East Orange

SECOND GRADE

My Favorite Animal At The Turtle Back Zoo

Monkeys climb from tree to tree.
It seems like they can fly to me.
Monkeys make the silliest noise-
Putting on a show for girls and boys.

Michael McGuire
Our Lady of the Valley
Orange

A Peacock

A peacock is a beautiful sight
A beautiful sight to see
He flaps his big wings
And spreads them out wide
As wide as they can be

Lateefat Layeni
St. Michael's
Newark

Poetry Contest

Come to the zoo,
And see the kangaroo.
I think he'll frighten you.

The zoo is pretty, the animals
are too.
But guess who is the prettiest,
It's the kangaroo.

Jorge Pinto
Wilson Avenue School
Newark

SECOND GRADE

Zebra

The animal I like best of all,
Is the zebra standing so tall.
He seems to grow and grow,
His weight I do not know.
His colors black and white
Are really out of sight,--
Especially at night.

Courtney Brooks
Our Lady of the Valley
Orange

Elephants

Elephants have trunks
Long and gray
In comes the water
And out gpes the spray.

Iesha White
St. Ann's School
Newark

THIRD GRADE

The Little Peacock

There once was a peacock
That I met at the zoo
I said to the peacock
How do you do!
He turned around real nice and slow
In a very special way.
And oh what beautiful colors,
He showed me that day.
I said to the peacock
How did you get that way?

Yolanda Slappy
St. Ann's
Newark

Bats

No bat will wear a hat.
A bat sleeps and makes sounds
like eep-eep.
One bat weighs as much as a
nickel maybe he would like a
pickle.
Some bats glide others hide.
Sometimes a bat will bite like
a rat.
A bat is not big and will not
do a jig.
You better watch out because
he'll bite you.

Sean Gilligan
St. Paul the Apostle
Irvington

Zoo Turtles

Zoo turtles
go around without a sound.
They move so slow
you never know
if they're real.

When it's dark
they creep
and climb into their shell
and turn out the lights.

Alexandra Kruse
St. Valentine School
Bloomfield

The Peacock

The peacock likes to strut around.
He doesn't make but a sound.
If you look, I bet you can,
see him spread his tail like a fan.
His feathers are so big and blue.
Let's go see him at the zoo!

Deana Mustica
Holy Family School
Belleville

FOURTH GRADE

Monkeys

Monkeys make me laugh
Not the zebra or giraffe
Monkeys make me smile
Not the snake or crocodile

Monkeys are so funny
From branch to branch they jump
Not like the ugly rhino
Or the camel with his hump.

Monkeys seem so happy
Playing games and making noise
The zoo seems like a school yard
Filled with laughing girls and boys

See the monkey in the tree
Swinging by his tail so free
Oh how I wish that I could be
Like a monkey in a tree.

Jennifer Attanasio
Holy Family School
Nutley

The Friendly Tiger

One day when I was only two
My mother took me to the zoo
We saw animals here and there
We saw a lion and a grizzly bear
I saw some monkeys in a tree
Then I saw something that interested me
But when I looked inside that cage
This thing came at me with a rage
He was covered with stripes and looked really mean
He was the scariest sight I've seen
I jumped from the cage with plenty of fright
Knowing I was going to have a bad dream that night
As he came up closer to me
I realized he was quite friendly
Friendship with a tiger isn't very rare
Some people wouldn't even care
If you want to find my story true
Then make a trip to the zoo

Rafael Coleman
Hawthorne Avenue School
Newark

My Favorite Animal At The Zoo

The Toucan is a very lovely bird.
So so lovely haven't you heard!

Up in a tree,
It's so, so glee.

Out, in the rain,
It's so, so vain.

Up in a swing,
It sings and sings.

Out in the air,
It flies without a care.

Tomorrow I will have no bliss.
What an opportunity I did not miss.

I finally saw a Toucan today.
Can you believe it wasn't far away.

Karen Richardson
Warren Street School
Newark

The Peacock

The peacock with its feathers so proud,
Is envied by the gathering crowd.
With its tail of many colors so bright,
the peacock is a beautiful sight.
When its tail is spread far and wide,
the peacock never loses its pride.
A peacock isn't very tall,
But the colors of its tail look like leaves in the fall.
It stands with its head held high,
gazing into the deep blue sky.
The peacock is the prettiest bird,
Of which I have ever heard.

Kathryn Hayden
Our Lady of Sorrows
Maplewood

FOURTH GRADE

I Like The Chimpanzee

I like the chimpanzee,
He's so gay and free.
He swings on his vine
Through the air so fine.
He eats bananas all through the day,
But doesn't get fat because he always plays .
He's so awfully cute when he jumps up and down,
It's a wonder he doesn't break his crown.
He may be small in size,
But oh, my gosh does he have big eyes"
Sometimes he's quiet,and sometimeshe's loud,
But most of the time he's so very proud.
He may be silly, and sometimes messy,
And once in a while he's very pesty.
No matter what you say, or what you think,
I like the chimpanzee because he'll always
give yoy a wink.
The chimpanzee is so nice and sweet,
And sometimes people give him a treat.

Kelly Mickalavage
School # 4
Belleville

Old Country Lion

My friend Brian,
Spotted an old country lion,
While walking down the street.
He screamed, "Lion,Lion,,
Please stop cryin,
Come here and take a seat."
Since the lion kept on cyin,
Brian thought he'd try to buy him.
But his owner was not too sure.
Brian yelled and started to scream,
"It has always heen my dream.
To keep a lion at my door.
He gave the owner a dollar,
Then offered him two
The man seemed very greedy.
The owner said,"Yes"
And Brian took a guess
The man must be quite needy.

Matthew Mancuso
School # 4
Belleville

Deer Are Safe at the Turtle Back Zoo

I went there on a beatiful day
I didn't want to leave, but wanted to stay.
The deer was the cutest, kindest around.
It was calm and silent as it rested on the ground.

The doe is a perfect mother
She cares for it and loves it like no other.
No one can take her baby away
If so she will cry for more than one day.

They are cute and kind.
The one and only on my mind.
By now you must want to know
Where did I go?

To the zoo of course.
I went there on a horse.
The Turtle Back Zoo to be exact.
I really loved it there and that's a fact.

The deer I saw were funny and crazy too.
But you will never see them go moo moo.
People kill deer for no reason.
The only one they have is their own please in.

That's why they're safe at Turtle Back Zoo
No one will kill them even if they want to!

Beth Jamison
St. Philomena Academy
Livingston

Flamingoes

Flamingoes are pretty birds
With long graceful necks
Pink feathers shining brightly

Nicole Dawson
St. Ann's School
Newark

FOURTH GRADE

Jake

Jake is bear,
Who has falling hair,
So he went to his friend Sammy the snake,
Who said to Jake
"So you have falling hair,
Don't worry bear,
And you won't lose your hair."
Sammy said to Jake
"Sit down and have some cake, that I
just baked,
And we'll see about,
Why it's all falling out."
"No Sammy,said Jake
I don't want any cake,
I just want to shout,
Cause my hair's all falling out.'."
I'll just go home and see
If I could eat a vitamin E."
Jake found some that day
And now his hair will always stay

Byron Fogle
School # 4
Belleville

The Tiger

My favorite animal is the tiger.
The one and only I really admire.
When I go to the zoo and see the
steps,
I go to the top and do not stop.
I go to the tiger and ~~sagay~~,
"Hey You!"
He gives me a big roar saying,
"How do you do!"
When I told the tiger I
could stay awahile,
He grew an even bigger giant smile.
When I told the tiger
I had to leave, and said good-by
The tiger then started to cry.
I said don't cry I'll be back
some other day,
and when I come back I'll
be back to stay.

Sharique Grimsley
Chancellor Avenue School
Irvington

Love Birds

Oh, I love the little birdies
and I like to see them fly
They sing so sweetly
as they go by

Some are big
Some are small
The little sparrows sing
the sweetest of all

The blue birds have pretty wings
Red birds and robins too
I'd like to have wings to fly
just like you.

Goodby little birdies
Flying high in the sky
Please come back to play
with me
Some day by and by.

Travin Thompson
Chancellor Avenue School
Newark

FIFTH GRADE

The Bear

A cub got loose
From the Turtle Back Zoo
Came to my house
And grew , grew, grew

I saw the bear
And got very scared
But all the bear did
Was stand and stare

I ran away as quick
As I can
But all the bear did
Was stand, stand, stand

Then the keeper came
His name was Lou
And brought him back
To the Turtle Back Zoo

Frank Spiniello
Holy Name School
East Orange

The Swan

The swan is so pretty and white
The swan is so gentle and bright.
No other bird can compare
Swish in your little pond
Swim in your little pond.
I love to watch you swim
The day is breaking, The night
has fallen the sun has set
Good night my pretty swan,
Goodnight.

Aisha Stewart
St. Rocco School
Newark

The Leopard

Listen to the leopard
Even as he lay
On low branches of trees
Poised!
A search for prey
Ready to spring
Dinner at last

Tsani-Jamillah Yarbrough
Stockton School
East Orange

A Hooting Valentine

The gracious gray owl is
worldly and wise,
He spends all his evenings
climbing the skies.
He rests and dreams all day long,
So at night he can hoot a
Valentine Day song.

Sloane Gibney
Collins School
Livingston

FIFTH GRADE

Koala Bear

Koal tall, Koala small,
You're the cutest of them all.

Koala skinny, Koala fat,
You're my favorite and that's that.

With your pouch so protective
and good,
You protect your babies the way you should.

I love to see you in a tree,
because it tells me you're safe and free.

Nicole Pucciarello
School # 10
Belleville

Birds

Birds are beautiful, they brighten up your day.
With colorful thoughts, in a very special way.
They're like the wonders of the world,
More beautiful than a diamond or a pearl.
They make you happy when you're sad.
They make you smile when you're mad.
When you need a friend, they're
always there,
Just turn around they're everywhere.

Carolyn Thompson
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Newark

St. Patrick's
Special Education
Newark

Lions

Lions are mean.
Lions are lean
Because they eat green beans.
They never saw a mouse.
Because lions don't live in a house.
They live in the zoo and that turns them blue.

Maria Dell'Acqua

My Favorite Animal At The Zoo

Once I saw a crane
Who liked to play in the rain
He skims over puddles,
Avoids being cuddled,
He likes to take fight
At first sight of light.
He is usually bad all day
Except when he eats
and finally sleeps.
One sunny day he decided to
escape and get away.
He never got caught and is
never afraid of being sought.
Now he will never be people's sport
Or anything of that sort.

Rajuhn Simmons

St. Patrick's School
Special Education
Newark

A Bear

Sometimes you have to be aware
Cause a bear can give you awful scare.
Wou can catch one if you dare,
I wouldn't be surprised if he sat
in your chair.
You might be able to shave his hair.
And then he will be really bare!

George Pierson

Tiger

They wander around
To search their ground,

Their will to survive-
Makes them stay alive.

He meets up with another animal,
Which may cause a brawl.
If he's the winner he'll walk away tall.

Their colors are orange and black
You guessed it - it's a cat!

Stephen Swangin

Giraffes

The giraffes make friends with Vickey.
They live in a cage at the zoo.
They eat leaves and trees and
Honey bees.
But they don't eat you.

Vickey Adams

Elephants

Elephants are very funny-
You must admit,
But sometimes they can scare us
out of our wits.
They use their trunks to grab
some food,
Which puts them in a happy mood.
For popcorn, peanuts and
crackerjacks they enjoy,
Which they get from every girl
and boy.
They like to ride children
on their backs,
But to others spray water-
Buring their playful acts.

Paulette Jones

The Turtle From The Zoo

It's something that moves very
slowly
because it has no where to go.

It looks like a rock,
And it can't be a sock-

Or you may throw it in the well,
because you think it's a shell.

Its color is brown,
And harder than the ground.

Now you know the shape and size.
Turtle is the answer-
So give me five.

Darnell Daniels

St. Patrick's School
Special Education
Newark

My Favorite Animal At The Zoo

I like monkeys in the zoo
because they are fun to play
with and are always funny too.
Monkeys live in the trees and
also have big families.
They don't have to worry about
buying cars because they can swing from
bar to bar.
They really love the jungle habitat
because they know that's where
it's at.

Arron Martin

My Favorite Animal At The Zoo

Who makes you laugh
As you go down the path?
Who hangs by his tail
And holds on the rail?
Bananas are his favorite food
They put him in a very funny mood.

Can you guess my favorite animal?
He is the best beast of them all.
Another clue, he loves to
swing from tree to tree,
Yes, you're right
A monkey!

Barbara Rodriguez

'King of the Cats

A lion is found in jungles-
Where it is known as the King,
For its size and fierce roar,
Make it anything but a bore.

It is gold and brown in color,
With a wild and fluffy mane.
It is the size of a Saber Tooth Tiger,
And a fighter by its name.
Its body looks as tough as an armored
knight,
And so it fills the animals with
horrible fright.

It may be a horrible animal
to some,
But to me it will always be
Number 1.

Marc Lane

THE 1983 FEELINGS AWARD

This award is presented to the student whose poem the Education Center of Turtle Back Zoo feels has the most "feelings" toward an animal. It is given in memory of "FEELINGS," our beloved Siberian Tiger who taught us all a great deal about caring for endangered species.

This is the first year that this award is being presented. The award was inspired by the following poem.

First Day

I remember his first day at the zoo,
you would remember if you were there too!
His coat was orange with stripes of brown and black,
he was only around six months old.
What do you think of that?
He came out with his trainer on a leash
it almost seemed as though he wanted to
make a speech.
He pawed at his audience and how playful he got,
I could see he wanted to run around a lot.
I cried when I heard he died, because I knew
I would miss him.
I wish I had one time to hug and kiss him.
That was Feelings, the Tiger,
on his special day.

Allison Radecki
Grade 2
Edgemont School
Montclair

COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Peter Shapiro

BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
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Angelo Cifelli, Jr.
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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
William C. Scalzo, Director

ESSEX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
115 Clifton Avenue
Newark, New Jersey 07104
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County of Essex
Peter Shapiro, *County Executive*
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